

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims have been retained in their present form. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, and 17-18 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW:

On January 2, 2008, a telephone interview was held with Examiner Joseph Haley and Applicants' Attorney Darleen J. Stockley participating. The Examiner objected to the specification, and submitted that the language of claims 14-17 was not specifically recited in the specification. Applicants' Attorney Stockley responded that she would forward this objection to the inventors, and if possible, respond by January 7, 2008.

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION:

In response to the above-cited objection, the specification has been amended to delete the language of paragraph [0038] and to include the terminology of claims 14-17 as filed in amended paragraph [0038], and also to include new paragraph [0039] (which is old paragraph [0038]). No new matter has been added.

Thus, the specification is submitted to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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